SAARC Fund for Regional Projects and the SAARC Regional Fund and a third widow for social development and infrastructure development.

(b) Expanding cooperation in the core economic areas among SAARC Member States and strengthening regional cooperation.

(c) The SAARC Council of Ministers during their 15th Session decided to extend the Visa Exemption Scheme and include the Following categories:—

(i) Ministers of Foreign/External Affairs of Member States.

(ii) Foreign Secretaries/Permanent Secretaries dealing with foreign affairs of Member States;

(iii) SAARC Secretary-General and Directors of the SAARC Secretariat; and

(iv) President of National Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Bangladesh and Pakistan have already ratified the regional convention on Terrorism which came into force on 22nd August, 1988.

Pakistan President's suggestion for peaceful settlement of disputs

7118. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Pakistan, during the recent SAARC Summit suggested bilateral talks between India and Pakistan for a peaceful settlement of the issues between our two countries;

(b) whether the Pakistan delegation were told that their involvement in instigating terrorism in various parts of India was the main hurdle in the normalisation of relations between our two countries;

(c) if so, their rection thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The President of Pakistan, during his recent visit to New Delhi, reiterated Pakistan's stand that until the Kashmir issue is resolved, the tensions in the relations will persist.

Government have conveyed to Pakistan that terrorism is the core issue in J&K. Regrettably, Pakistan is actively sponsoring terrorism and subversion directed against India, including in J&K, in violation of all norms of inter-State conduct and good neighbourly relations.

New Delhi SAARC Summit, 1995

7119. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) which are the Heads of State Government who attended the Eighth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, held recently in New Delhi;

(b) what are the details of discussions held and the outcome of this high level Summit Meeting affecting the lives of nearly 1.2 billion people in South Asia;

(c) whether the South Asia Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA) has any chances of Improvement/taking off on schedule indicating the present status of SAPTA particularly after consultations with SAARC heads of State/ Government; and

(d) whether the PM of India held any dialogue with President Farooq Ahmed Leghari of Pakistan as well as with Bangladesh - Premier Begum Khaleda Zia on matter of mutual interest; if so, outcome of such dialogues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) King of Bhutan His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, Prime Minister of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia, President of Maldives Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Man Mohan Adhikari, Preisdent of Pakistan Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, President of Sri Lanka Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaika Kumaratunga and Prime Minister of India Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, attended the Eighth Summit Meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

(b) The outcome of the Eighth SAARC Summit of Heads of State or Government has been very positive and encouraging. The